

Mercer County Lawyer

October, 2018

A Publication of the Mercer County Bar Association

Volume 37, Issue 5

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Save the Date:
XTREME CLE
October 24, 2019
*Mercer County
Community
College*

From the President's Desk.....

Fall is upon us. Just like in years past, we celebrate the fruits of the harvest, the thrill of a new football season, and the newest batch of pumpkin-infused products. And just like in years past, the Mercer County Bar Association began the fall season with an impressive slate of events.

In September, we kicked off the new court year with the Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service, we welcomed the new judicial law clerks at the Judges and Law Clerks Reception, we honored Judge Linda Feinberg with the Medal of Honor Award and Ross Switkes with the Young Lawyer of the Year Award, and we organized the first professional composite of our membership in ten years.

October hosted Xtreme CLE, the MCBA's premiere event. This year's event was arguably the most successful it has been in recent years. It featured an assortment of cutting-edge programs, including breaking developments in real estate, attorney ethics, land use and zoning, and opioid awareness. We were fortunate to learn from some of Mercer County's finest legal minds, such as Senator Linda Greenstein and Judges Christine Gravelle, Linda Feinberg, Philip Carchman, and Peter Warshaw. Thank you to all of our sponsors, participants, and attendees for making Xtreme CLE a success. I must also acknowledge the MCBA's CLE Committee and Executive



Director Samantha Iraca and her staff for their hard work in organizing the event.

October closed with our Seventh Annual Professionalism Day, which offered ethics CLE credits on "Professionalism and Civility in a Criminal Case." Judge Mary Jacobson and I moderated for a distinguished panel, consisting of former New Jersey Attorney General Christopher Porrino and Judge Peter Warshaw, as they discussed professionalism in the state and federal courts, dealing with difficult legal issues and adversaries, and respect towards criminal tribunals.

The MCBA will continue to impress as we approach November. We begin, on November 2nd, with Casino Night, which will be held at the Stone Terrace by John Henry. I invite everyone to join your fellow members for a night of fun and entertainment at the casino tables, where "fun money" winnings can be exchanged for coupons to be used towards raffle prizes. Importantly, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Mercer County Bar Foundation, which, in turn, supports

A Publication of the Mercer County Bar Association

M e r c e r C o u n t y

Lawyer

October 2018

Volume 37, Issue 5

Officers

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NJSBA Representative

MCBA Office 609-585-6200

The **MERCER COUNTY LAWYER** is published six times per year; February, April, June, August, October, and December. Advertisements appearing in the **MERCER COUNTY LAWYER** are the viewpoints of the contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Mercer County Bar Association or its members. The MCBA does not vouch for the accuracy of any legal analysis, citations, or opinions expressed in any articles contained herein. Individuals who are interested in joining the Association, placing advertising, or contributing articles should contact the Bar Association office at 609-585-6200, fax 609-585-5537 or e-mail info@mercerbar.com. The newsletter deadline is the last Wednesday of the month preceding the publication month.

local legal assistance efforts, in addition to various charitable community projects. I hope to see you all at the event. Save me a seat at the blackjack table.

Casino Night will also include the presentation of the prestigious Michael J. Nizolek Award. This award, the MCBA's highest honor, recognizes one lawyer each year for his or her unselfish contributions to both the legal profession and the community. This year's recipient is the Honorable Maria Sypek, P.J.S.C. (Ret.). Judge Sypek spent her career serving Mercer County with dignity and professionalism as a respected member of our Bench and Bar. She served as a judge in every part of the Superior Court, Law Division within the Mercer Vicinage. She now focuses on dispute resolution, as a professional mediator and arbitrator, where she offers the skills she developed from the years of experience she gained as a jurist. Congratulations, Judge Sypek. You are nothing short of a worthy recipient, and we are grateful for your extraordinary service to Mercer County and the MCBA.

November will finish off with the Young Lawyers Committee's Bowling Night and the Family Bar Meet and Greet. Come join the YLC on November 14th at Colonial Bowling in Lawrenceville for a night filled with bowling and good company. Proceeds from the event will

benefit LifeTies. Also, please join the Family Bar on November 28th at Mountain View Golf Club for an evening devoted to networking with colleagues and recognized experts in the fields of mental health, custody, and finances.

Finally, with the Thanksgiving holiday in the horizon, I strongly encourage all of our members to volunteer their time and talents towards giving back to Mercer County. The MCBA's Community Projects Committee routinely coordinates activities that serve to benefit the most deserving members of our community, like donating coats for the annual coat drive, serving meals at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, and delivering meals to the needy through Meals on Wheels. Please consider participating during this season of giving.

I hope everyone had a happy Halloween. I wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

**MCBA**MERCER COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Mercer County Bar Association's 2018 Young Lawyer of the Year Award Presentation



Pictured from left to right: Mercer County Bar Association President Angelo J. Onofri, Esq., and Mercer County Bar Association Young Lawyer of the Year, Ross Switkes, Esq.

The MCBA congratulates Ross Switkes, Esq. on receiving the well-deserved Young Lawyer of the Year Award. We are honored to have celebrated the success of one of Mercer County's finest rising stars. We also extend our gratitude to all of the attendees at the Judges and Law Clerks Reception, where the award was presented. The event was an enormous success, which served to both recognize Mercer County's judiciary and newest law clerks, as well as honor the young lawyer who demonstrates the best qualities of an attorney and member of the Bar.

Judges and Law Clerks Reception



Pictured from left to right: Michael Borgos, Esq., Timothy Ward, Esq., Kathleen Petrucci, Esq., Laura Sunyak, Esq., and Joseph Paravecchia, Esq.



Pictured from left to right: Mercer County Bar Association Vice President, James Creegan, Esq., John S. Eory, Esq., and Melissa Chimbangu, Esq.

Judges and Law Clerks Reception (continued)



Judges and Law Clerks Reception (continued)



Nizolek Award 2018

Hon. Maria Sypek, P.J.S.C. (Ret.)

Each year, the Awards Committee, comprised of previous award recipients, reviews nominations for the Michael J. Nizolek Award for service to the Mercer County Bar Association. The Nizolek Award, named after the former President of the Bar Association, honors a member who has furthered the interests of lawyers and the legal system in Mercer County. The award winner is one who has given not only their time, but who maintains excellence and civility in their practice. This award was created and named for Mike Nizolek in 1995, a few years after his untimely death, and is intended to recognize attorneys who live their professional and personal lives by the standards that Mike set for himself. This annual award honors Mike's memory and is the Bar's highest honor. This year we are proud to present the award to the Honorable Maria Sypek, P.J.S.C. (Ret.)

Judge Sypek admirably served as a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court for twenty years. During her successful judicial career, she sat in every part of the Superior Court, Law Division, including the Criminal, Family and Chancery parts, over which she also served as presiding judge.

Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Sypek worked for sixteen years at Stockman, O'Donnell and Sypek, P.A. as an associate and partner, where she practiced various areas of the law, including business, property, government, and personal injury.

Judge Sypek received her B.A. in Political Science from Rosemont College, and her law degree from Seton Hall Law School, where she served as an editor of the Seton Hall Law Review.

Judge Sypek currently practices dispute resolution and offers her services as an arbitrator and mediator for a variety of cases. She is an active member of the Mercer County Bar Association and



recently served as president of the Mercer County Bar Foundation.

Judge Sypek is a lifelong resident of Mercer County.



Central Jersey Legal Services Update

By Susan Knispel, Esq.

WE NEED YOU TO TAKE A PRO BONO CASE AND YOU NEED US SO YOU CAN FULFILL YOUR MADDEN REQUIREMENT

If you want to be exempt from court -ordered appointments, you need to fulfill the requirement each year of 25 hours of voluntary qualifying pro bono service pursuant to R.1:21-12. Central Jersey Legal Services, Inc., (CJLS) is an entity authorized to provide pro bono opportunities so that attorneys can claim an exemption from court appointments. Once the court appoints you to represent a client in a case, it is too late to find a way to become exempt. The twenty-five (25) hours needs to be completed by December 31st of the year prior to the year in which you are claiming the exemption.

If you specialize in family law cases, you might get appointed in a case involving a DUI. If you practice real estate law you could be required to represent an alleged incapacitated individual in a guardianship case. Do you really want to be in a situation where you are required to represent a client outside your area of expertise?

But we can help! You can take pro bono cases from our organization through the Volunteer Lawyer's Project (VLP) of the Mercer County Bar Association (MCBA). At the present time we are referring out the following types of cases: Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases, criminal record expungements, guardianship matters, and family law cases (usually uncontested divorces, post-judgment motions and domestic violence restraining order matters). However, occasionally, we do have eligible clients who might need assistance with an appeal, a name change, a probate or equity court matter, a real estate matter or a tort defense. If you do not see referrals in one of your practice areas, you can always call our office to discuss the types of cases you would be willing to accept.

The MCBA maintains an email list of attorneys interested in accepting cases in each substantive area discussed above, and when they receive a

referral from our office, they send out an email looking for an attorney to accept the case. If you wish to be added to any of the email lists, contact either MCBA at sdelorenzo@mercerbar.com or CJLS at sknispel@lsnj.org.

There are other ways to help our client population. Here is an example of how the law firm of Pepper Hamilton is assisting our clients. In conjunction with the firm, we set up a clinic whereby clients can receive a consultation in matters of concern to low-income tenants. Clients consult with an attorney from the firm at the offices of CJLS. The attorneys from the firm rotate. They come twice a month and see four or five clients each time. We, at CJLS, screen and schedule the clients. The Pepper Hamilton attorneys give advice on rent withholding in habitability matters, security deposit returns, and rent increases, along with other issues affecting low-income tenants. There can be other similar opportunities for your firm, just call and ask.

In conclusion, it is the obligation of the private bar to offer pro bono assistance to those clients who cannot afford private counsel. Our legal system should provide equal access for all regardless of ability to pay. CJLS can only provide assistance to a fraction of the eligible client population in Mercer County. Please help us ensure equal justice for all by volunteering to handle pro bono cases from our Volunteer Lawyer's Project.

Susan Knispel, Esquire is currently the Deputy Director of the Trenton office of CJLS.



Mercer County Bar Association



Understanding Divorce Arbitration

FAM Law Code

NJ Provider # 268; PA provider # 1006

2.0 NJ/NY* Credits – 1.5 PA Credits

Monday, December 3, 2018

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mercer County Bar Association Office
1245 Whitehorse Mercerville Road
Suite 420, Mercerville, NJ 08619

Join Dale Console, Esq., Law Office of Dale E. Console, P.C. & John Eory, Esq., Stark & Stark as they discuss why and when you should consider divorce arbitration, what issues are appropriate and how to make arbitration cost effective. This program will include a legal and procedural overview of divorce arbitration, choosing the arbitrator, tips on drafting agreements, after or before management of issues that arise during arbitration and much more.

Registration until November 19, 2018 MCBA Members - \$30.00 - Non-Members - \$80.00

Registration after November 20, 2018 MCBA Members - \$45.00 - Non-Members - \$95.00

Catered dinner from Villa Maria of Hamilton is included.

PA Credits - \$15 Members / \$30 Non-Members

NY Credits - \$10 Members / \$20 Non-Members

Members must be good standing with the MCBA to receive member pricing.

This program has been approved by the Board of Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.0 hours of total CLE Credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism and 2.0 qualify as hours of credit toward certification in civil trial law, criminal trial law, workers compensation law, municipal court law and/or matrimonial law.

Family – Divorce Arbitration

December 3, 2018

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Firm: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

CLE Credit (Check all boxes that apply): ☐ NY ☐ PA # _____

For your convenience, we accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express:

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Sec. Code: _____

Signature: _____

Payment is not deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes but may be deductible under other provisions as a business expense. **48 Hr. written** notice required for cancellation and refund • \$15 processing fee on refunds

*NY Approved Jurisdiction Policy Applies

Send Registration to: Mercer County Bar Association, 1245 Whitehorse Ave., Suite 420, Hamilton, NJ 08619, Fax to (609) 585-5537, email to info@mercerbar.com or register on our website www.mercerbar.com

Thank you to our event sponsor!

**ALL STATE
INVESTIGATIONS**



Mercer County Bar Association's Family Law Committee presents

Family Bar Meet & Greet

With Mental Health, Custody, Financial & Other Experts

Wednesday November 28, 2018

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mountain View Golf Club

850 Bear Tavern Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

A chance to meet regularly appointed and newly recognized experts. A great opportunity for Judges, experts and lawyers to ask questions, make suggestions and build better working relationships.

Regular Pricing: \$60 Members/ \$90 Non-Members

Late Payment after November 21, 2018—\$80 Members/ \$110 Non-Members

Mental Health Professionals, Financial and Other Experts will be offered the Member Rate

Includes Abundant Appetizers, Beer, Wine & Soda

Send or fax your reservation to:

Mercer County Bar Association

1245 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd., Suite 420

Hamilton, NJ 08619

(609) 585-6200 FAX (609) 585-5537 email info@mercerbar.com

Or register on our website www.mercerbar.com

Family Section Meet & Greet

November 28, 2018

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Firm: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Amount Due: \$ _____

Accepting Visa, MasterCard and American Express

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code _____

48 Hr. written notice required for cancellation and refund - \$15 processing fee on all cancellations Payment is not deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes but may be deductible under other provisions as a business expense..

Thank you to our Corporate Partners:





Mercer County Bar Association Criminal Bench Bar

12/5/2018

2:00 pm

Judge Jacobson's Courtroom in the Mercer County Criminal Courthouse

Mercer County is engaged in negotiations which could result in the partial closing of the Mercer County Corrections Center. It is possible that certain Mercer County inmates could be housed in Hudson County beginning sometime in early 2019. Mercer County officials are working hard to identify and address issues associated with this potential partial closing and are committed to ensuring that operations of the criminal justice system proceed in an orderly and efficient way without interruptions. Towards this end, a Bench Bar meeting is being convened to give Bar members an opportunity to ask questions of County officials and to raise concerns they may have. Warden Charles Ellis will be present to answer questions and discuss proposed operational plans. Numerous other County officials will be present to answer questions as well. Our hope is that there will be a strong showing of prosecutors, public defenders and members of the private defense bar so that a comprehensive discussion may be had.

The Mercer County Bar Association is grateful that County Government is willing to obtain input regarding this critical action. It is important that the Bar be heard.

This is a members only event for those in good standing.

Preregistration is required and space is limited.

Send registration to:
The Mercer County Bar Association
1245 Whitehorse Mercerville Road, Suite 420, Mercerville, NJ 08619
Phone (609) 585-6200 Fax (609) 585-5537 register on our website: www.mercerbar.com
or email info@mercerbar.com

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Firm: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Calendar of Events

November

Collect new and used coats

Tuesday, November 13th: Deliver lunch for Meals on Wheels 10:30-noon.

Wednesday, November 14th: Young Lawyers Bowling event @ Colonial Bowling Lanes. More information to come.

Wednesday, November 28th: Family Meet and Greet 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm @ Mountainview Golf Course. Registration form is included

December

Tuesday, December 11th: Serve lunch 10:30-1:00 pm @ TASK.

Tuesday, December 11th: Holiday Party 5:30-8:30 pm @ Cobblestone Creek (formerly Green Acres Country Club)

Thursday, December 13th: Lawyers Care 5:30-7:00 pm @ Mercer County Connection.

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Mercer Vicinage Phone Update

Effective Monday, April 30, telephone numbers for Superior Court offices and chambers in the Mercer Vicinage will change. The new phone system will require callers to dial the main telephone number followed by a five-digit extension. The main telephone number is 609-571-4200. An automated attendant will guide callers through the main menu and a spell by name telephone directory. Generally, extensions will be a 7 plus the last four digits of the old phone number. Fax numbers will not be changed.

A complete listing of new telephone numbers can be found at <https://www.njcourts.gov/courts/vicinages/mercerc.html>.

Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer Vicinage
CIVIL DIVISION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
April 2018

MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER: (609) 571-4200

You must dial the main number to access the courts. Once connected, you may select a prompt or dial an extension.

TEAM LEADERS: Extensions

Margaret (Peggy) Busse	74432
Michele Sebastiano	74475
Theresa (Terrie) Cook	74456
Theresa Jackson	74455
Zena Lallo	74454

COURT SERVICES OFFICER:

Jessica Stock	74479
Joseph Herring	74496
Katherine Stott	74314
Kelley Conner	74481
Nancy Ruggeri	74292

CDR TEAM COORDINATOR:

James Milton	74458
--------------	-------

ARBITRATION: 74470

Mercer Vicinage Phone Update

Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer Vicinage
CIVIL DIVISION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
 April 2018

MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER: (609) 571-4200

You must dial the main number to access the courts. Once connected, you may select a prompt or dial an extension.

JUDGE	STAFF	EXT	FAX
Mary C. Jacobson, A.J.S.C.	Erika Rodriguez	74499	609-571-4463
	Ivette Vargas (LC)	74492	
	Dianna Shinn (LC)	74493	
Paul Innes, P.J.CH.	Jena Hreha	74204	609-571-4233
	Andrew Arthur (LC)	74206	
Douglas H. Hurd, P.J.Civ.	Laurie Douyon	74825	609-571-4826
	Emily Schmitt (LC)	74822	
William Anklowitz, J.S.C. Supervising Judge SCP	Karen Snow	74838	609-826-7223
	Digisha Bhavsar (LC)	74835	
Janetta D. Marbrey, J.S.C.	Jill Dickerson	74305	609-571-4808
	Palmer Richardson (LC)	74303	
R. Brian McLaughlin, J.S.C.	Heidi Loforese	74919	609-571-4808
	George Flammer (LC)	74917	
Kay Walcott-Henderson, J.S.C.	Barbara Richards	74320	609-571-4386
	Brian Gilligan (LC)	74319	
F. Patrick McManimon, J.S.C. Ret. On Recall	Celeste Givens Supervisor	74491	609-571-4489

Mercer Vicinage Opening Ceremony & Memorial Service

On September 4, 2018, we celebrated commencement of the new court year with the Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service in Judge Mary Jacobson's courtroom at the Mercer County Criminal Courthouse. This year, as in the past, we introduced the distinguished members of our Bench and Bar, welcomed new members, and honored the late lawyers and jurists who nobly contributed to the practice of law in Mercer County. This year, at the memorial service, we remembered Judge A. Jerome Moore, Lowell Curran, J. Raymond Dietrich, and Lawrence F. O'Hara.



Mercer County Executive, Brian Hughes and Mercer County Bar Association President Angelo J. Onofri, Esq.



Mercer Vicinage Opening Ceremony & Memorial Service (continued)



Judges of the New Jersey Superior Court for the Mercer Vicinage.

Mercer Vicinage Opening Ceremony & Memorial Service (continued)



Lowell Curran, Esq.,
eulogized by Allen D.
Porter.



J. Raymond Dietrich,
Esq., eulogized by
Thaddeus P. Mikulski,
Jr.



Hon. A. Jerome
Moore, eulogized
by Bruce M.
Schragger and Scott
A. Krasny.



Lawrence F. O'Hara,
Esq., eulogized by
Jeffrey L. O'Hara

*"A life well lived is a precious gift,
of hope and strength and grace,
from someone who has made our world
a brighter, better place.*

*It's filled with moments,
sweet and sad with smiles and sometimes tears,
with friendships formed and good times shared,
and laughter through the years.*

*A life well lived is a legacy,
of joy and pride and pleasure,
a living, lasting memory
our grateful hearts will treasure."*

-Author Unknown

Mercer County Clerk Update

By Paula Sollami Covello



As County Clerk, I oversee over two of Mercer County's busiest passport offices in Trenton and Hamilton Township. Consequently, I've received many inquiries as to whether new Federal ID laws will require New Jersey residents to obtain passports to fly domestically in order to meet Homeland Security requirements. I am pleased to let you know that until 2020, the New Jersey Driver's license remains sufficient to allow NJ travelers to go through security without a passport. However, this is simply an extension. All New Jersey residents will need an updated driver license that complies with Homeland's Security REAL IDs standards, a passport or military ID to travel domestically as of October 1, 2020.

The Real ID complies with federal standards that impose stronger requirements to prove US residency and allows more than nine characters on the license. It is intended to reduce identify theft and fraud, and enhance the nation's security. Changing the format for every single New Jersey driver requires a massive undertaking on behalf of the state government, who will need to complete three to four times the number of transactions in previous years. The deadline for compliance with this law has been pushed back several times, which has left many wondering if their Driver's Licenses will be sufficient to let them go through security without a passport. The answer is yes – a NJ Driver's License is sufficient – for now, at least.

Reports indicate that the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) is taking multiple steps between now and the Spring of 2019 to prevent massive wait times that other states have

experienced when starting the transition to Real IDs. They hope to update their website, enabling people to get their new licenses on line and by mobile phone in the coming years. Recognizing the progress of the State MVC, the Division of Homeland Security granted an extension for the MVC to comply with the additional regulations.

Because the Mercer County Clerk's office provides passport services, we want you to know that a passport book, and the less expensive passport card, do and will remain an acceptable form of identification for domestic travel. Therefore, you do not have to wait for the new Driver's License for travel if you want to be compliant with the REAL ID standards. We can take care of that for you with a passport.

Lastly, please know that our office additionally offers Veterans ID cards. While they do not meet Federal standards for a Real ID, they do identify Veterans of Mercer County, which allows Vets to receive discounts and recognition for their service on a local level. We have one more week where Veteran ID cards will be FREE to Veterans – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Week (December 7 – 14), in honor of those who have nobly served our country.

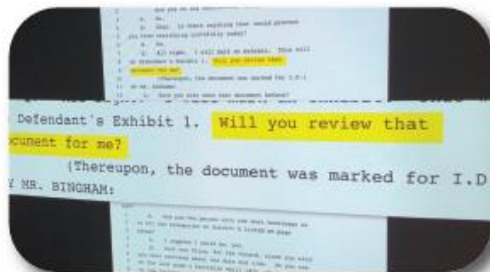
To obtain a Vet ID, you can go to our office, located at 209 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ, with your original DD214 form and proof of Mercer County residency. For more information on Veteran IDs, visit mercercounty.org/countyclerk and view our Office Services page, or call (609) 989-7108. If you have any additional questions about the different forms of IDs and the new Real IDs, please contact us at (609) 989-6465.



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X-LARGE

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COUNTY OF MERCER
Brian M. Hughes, County Executive

ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL

The Mercer County Counsel's Office seeks an attorney with 3-5 years' experience in civil litigation (including Title 59, civil rights, labor & employment law). Experience in collective bargaining negotiations and working knowledge of New Jersey Civil Service system a plus. Must be admitted to New Jersey bar and United States District Court. Salary commensurate with experience. Mercer County residency required. EEO/AA/ADA Employer.

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